



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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August 25, 2004

Docket Management Facility
U.S. Department of Transportation
Attention: Rules Docket No. FAA-2004-17681
400 Seventh Street, SW
Nassif Building, Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590-001

IN SUPPORT

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Air Line Pilots Association, International, representing the safety interests of 64,000 professional airline pilots flying for 42 airlines in the United States and Canada, has reviewed the referenced final rule and request for comments. The rule to extend the date for operators to comply with the special maintenance program requirements for transport airplane fuel tank systems is important to allow more manufacturers the opportunity of developing new systems. This is especially important now that systems are being prepared for certification. We support the recommended compliance deadline change.

ALPA also agrees with the modifications made to the FAA's review of their Aging Airplane Program due to the new compliance date.

We agree with the decision to extend the compliance date and with the review of the FAA's Aging Airplane Program, and concur with the FAA proposed amendment to 14 CFR Parts 91, 121, 125, and 129.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Corey Stephens
Staff Engineer
Engineering & Air Safety Department

CS:ak